YUKON CHILD CARE BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT

April 1998 – March 31, 1999

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June 28, 1999

Honourable Dave Sloan
Minister of Health and Social Services
Government of the Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Sloan,

It is with pleasure that I submit the 1998/99 Annual Report for your perusal.

This report covers all the activities, interests and business of the board and its members during the 1998-99 fiscal year. I have also included the mandates of the Yukon Child Care Board. We have had several members leave the board this year and two new appointees. A brief profile of each of the current board members has been included.

We, the members, wish to express our appreciation to have had the opportunity to advise you on matters related to quality child care in the Yukon and look forward to continuing to work toward this end.

Sincerely,

Sandra Beckman

Sandra Beckman, Chair
Yukon Child Care Board

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This past year has been one of change for the Yukon Child Care Board. We have added new board members who are committed to working with us on child care related issues. Past board representation reflected a variety of stakeholders from the child care community. Our new members continue to add a much needed broader perspective: youth at risk, First Nations family child care as well as a parent from a child care center board of directors.

It has been a year filled with challenges, yet positive movement in the child care field. There have been some closures of dayhomes and continued licensing of new family day homes. A long time child care center closed in Whitehorse and there was an increase in licensed child care facilities in rural areas. Child care subsidy applications decreased for the first time. A culmination of our hard work was an extremely positive government announcement which lifted the moratorium on the Direct Operating Grant. This year, as in the past, we continued the responsibility of advising the Minister on issues facing Yukon child care users and providers.

Along with my fellow board members, I look forward to the 1999-2000 term; continuing to concentrate on how we can move inclusive child care forward with the necessary support in the Yukon Child Care community.

Sandra Beckman

Sandra Beckman, Chair
Yukon Child Care Board

BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Beckman
Chair

Sandra is presently the Instructor/Co-ordinator of the Early Childhood Development Program and Co-ordinator of the Educational Assistant/Exceptionalities worker Program at Yukon College. She holds a Bachelor of Education, an Early Childhood Services Diploma and a Masters Degree in Child Care Administration. She is currently the President of the Canadian Child Care Federation, and sits on the Steering Committee for '*Leading for Tomorrow*' (a project designing leadership training modules) co-sponsored by the Canadian Child Care Federation and The Association of Canadian Community Colleges. Sandra's passion for affordable, accessible and quality childcare is the motivating factor for continued work in this field.

Greg Bedard

Greg was recently appointed to the Yukon Child Care Board because of his interest in youth at risk. He is a graduate of the Bachelor of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria. Greg resides in Whitehorse and works for of the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, Youth Diversion Program.

Kathy Fredrickson

Kathy has worked professionally with/and for children for sixteen years. In B.C., she began working with special needs children and teens in recreation programs and later was an Assistant Directoress for a Montessori Preschool and After School Program. After moving to the Yukon in 1989, Kathy was Director of the Faro Child Care Centre for a total of six years. She holds a Diploma in Therapeutic Recreation, a Diploma in Montessori Preschool Education and a Certificate in Early Childhood Education. Kathy has served as an Executive member of the Yukon Child Care Association. She has taught and facilitated many Early Childhood courses and workshops throughout the Territory.

Leanne Godwin

Leanne works as the Director of Trinke Zho Daycare Center, a First Nation Daycare in the community of Dawson City. Following Completion of her Early Child Care & Education Certificate at Douglas College in Vancouver, British Columbia, she worked at the University of B.C. for three years. Of the eleven years Leanne has worked in the child care field, eight have been in Dawson City. She also works as Program Co-ordinator for an

Aboriginal Headstart Program located on the daycare premises.

Elizabeth Kaye

Elizabeth Kaye is a high school diploma graduate born and raised in the Yukon. For the past twenty five years she has lived in the community of Old Crow where she has raised four children, all graduating from high school. Elizabeth has held a number of positions in the village of Old Crow. Her passion is working with children. Since 1991, Elizabeth has operated a successful Family Dayhome. In the up-coming year, she plans to attend the Early Childhood Development Program at Yukon College. Elizabeth's goal, as a member of Yukon Child Care Board and the greater community, is to make child care settings better places for children.

Craig Olsen

Craig is a recently appointed member of the Yukon Child Care Board. He works as a consultant and is based in Whitehorse. Craig is a father of two young children and has served on the Nlaye Ndasadye Board of Directors for two years.

Julia Salo

Julia received her Early Childhood Development Certificate from Yukon College in June 1997 and is continuing progress toward her ECD Diploma. Her work with children spans several years, beginning with Burnaby Parks and Recreation and then with Tumbler Ridge Recreation Department. Julia worked at Faro Child Care Center for six years, and was Director of the center for the last 1.5 years of its operation. She is currently employed by Yukon College, Faro Campus, as an Administrative Assistant and Accounting Clerk. Julia is a member of the Del Van Gorder School Council, Faro Community Campus Committee as well as volunteering for numerous school and town activities.

Irene Szabla

Irene believes that it is important for all children to feel that they are welcomed and supported in their communities. Quality child care is one of the most effective ways of promoting inclusion. Irene brings a Yukon perspective, having lived in Dawson City for six years and travelled extensively throughout the Yukon. Irene has been the Executive Director of the Child Development Centre since February 1993.

Evelyn Thorogood

Evelyn has been a family dayhome operator in Whitehorse for several years. Inclusion and parental involvement are important elements of her program. She also works with Yukon Educational Theatre to organize fun community events for children and their

families. Evelyn has an Early Childhood Development Diploma and an Educational Assistant/Exceptionality Worker Certificate. She is an active community member; volunteering with the Yukon Child Care Association, at her daughter's school, and in sporting activities. Future plans include a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology.

Ex-Officio Members

Dave Sloan, Minister of Health and Social Services
Anne Sheffield, Director, Family and Children's Services
Debbie Mauch, Supervisor, Child Care Services Unit

HISTORY OF THE YUKON CHILD CARE BOARD

The Yukon Child Care Board was established in May 1990, following legislative approval of the Child Care Act. The establishment of the YCCB under the Act was in response to Yukoners expressed desire to have an ***independent*** body appointed to hear appeals, advise the Minister, and provide input into services provided for children.

In November 1990, the first board members were appointed from a list of candidates forwarded to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Board members came from various child care groups, licensed child care service providers, Yukon First Nations and parents.

YCCB membership is broad based, thus it provides a forum for urban, rural, private, board or band operated child care centers as well as family dayhome stakeholders. The board, utilizing the expertise of its members, advises the government on issues and concerns in the child care field. Members of the Board strive to be responsive to both the child care field's and the parents' concern for provision of affordable, accessible, high quality child care services in the Yukon.

Since the board's inception in 1990, parents, care providers, and other stakeholders have witnessed numerous forward strides in the child care field. However, there is more work to be done. Yukon children and their families will continue to need support from the broad child care community. The Yukon Child Care Board is committed to continued development, which will ensure the provision of affordable, accessible, quality child care services for Yukon children and their families.

MANDATE OF THE YUKON CHILD CARE BOARD

The Yukon Child Care Board's mandate, as set out in the Child Care Act is to:

- encourage the development and support of child care services that meet the needs of parents and children in the Yukon;
- make recommendations to the Minister of Health and Social Services on any matter pertaining to child care;
- review any policies, programs, services or administrative procedures of any Yukon government departments in matters pertaining to child care;
- advise on the planning, development, standards, co-ordination and evaluation of child care services in the Yukon;
- hear appeals from people denied a license by the Director of Family and Children's Services to operate a child care service;
- hear appeals concerning licenses which have been suspended or revoked, or limited by certain terms and conditions; and
- hear appeals from parents who have been denied a child care subsidy.

BUSINESS OF THE YUKON CHILD CARE BOARD

As an administrative body, the Yukon Child Care Board has been given a mandate of three functions: to advise, to investigate and to adjudicate.

ADVISORY

The Board's advisory function involves advising the Minister of Health and Social Services on any matters pertaining to child care which includes the planning, development of standards, co-ordination and evaluation of child care services.

During the 1998-99 year, the Board advised the Minister on the following issues:

a) **Child Care Subsidy Program** - Subsidy levels continue to be an area of concern to the child care community. The appeal committee of the board has heard more appeals in this fiscal year than ever before. The chair advised the Minister that before concrete recommendations can be made by YCCB, a thorough review must be undertaken. Board members, working with Child Care Services Unit staff will review the last five years of recommendations, background, appeals, statistics and minutes of the previous subsidy committee.

b) **Education/Training** - This continues to be an ongoing concern for the Board. As minimum educational levels are being phased in based on Child Care Center and Family Dayhome Regulations, the discrepancy between the two is a concern for YCCB members.

b) **Direct Operating Grant** - The Board, in response to concerns expressed from family dayhome operators, advised the Minister to consider lifting the moratorium to family dayhomes who licensed after the moratorium was in place. The Yukon Child Care Association also played an active roll lobbying the Minister on behalf of the family dayhome operators and caregivers in the childcare field.

c) **Supported Child Care** - The subcommittee of the Yukon Child Care Board is chaired by Cathleen Smith. The long term goal of this sub-committee is to guarantee the provision of quality services to ***all*** children and families, including those with a variety of special needs. This committee developed a Mission Statement and Vision Statement, which was approved by the board in November, 1998. Rack cards with the Mission and Vision statements were developed for wide distribution. A conference on FAS/FAE (fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects) took place November 5-6. Thanks to the extra special efforts of Cathleen Smith and her committee!

d) **Rural Child Care** - Three current members of the Yukon Child Care Board live in rural Yukon communities. Input from these representatives help the board identify issues of concern to the rural child care sector. This enables us to keep the Minister apprised of rural child care needs. A Yukon Child Care Board member represents the YCCB on the Yukon College Early Childhood Development President's Committee on Programming, which is the advisory committee to the ECD Program. A significant advancement this year, is the development of three additional ECD courses for distance delivery, which will be available to the rural communities in the near future.

Future Development

As the YCCB continues to seek information and material relevant within the territory as well as nationally, immediate concentration will focus on:

a) Appeal Training for new and re-appointed board members:
We have two newly appointed board members who require appeal training. The past year there was a significant increase in the number of appeals. Some of the rural board members haven't had the opportunity to sit in on an appeal and require retraining. There is also a need for on-going training as well.

b) Continued input on department policies and guidelines.

c) Culmination of child care subsidy review, report and recommendations to the Minister.

d) Supported Child Care – this is a priority area for 1999-2000.

e) Increase communications with Yukon Child Care Association to work together on concerns specifically related to association members.

f) To provide input to the Department concerning the Policy Manual.

INVESTIGATIVE

In its investigative capacity, the function of YCCB is to review new and existing government policy, programs, services and administrative procedures with the ultimate goal of improving child care in the Yukon.

In order to provide input into government policies and coordination of services, the Board is kept abreast of child care issues by representation on many community and territorial child care committees and organizations. These include:

a) The Board participates on the Equivalency Committee, which looks at educational levels from other provinces and territories to determine equivalency to Yukon levels, as indicated in the Child Care Centre and Family Day Home Regulations.

b) The Board is working with the Child Care Services Unit on revising the Policy Manual.

c) A Yukon Child Care Board member represents YCCB on the Yukon College Early Childhood Development President's Committee on Programming, the advisory committee to the ECD Program. This allows YCCB to provide input on training issues relevant to care providers in the territory.

Future Development

The Board will continue to research both nationally and territorially, any material that may be pertinent to improving child care in the Yukon. The 1999-2000 fiscal year will focus on:

a) Completion of the review of the Child Care Subsidy Program with recommendations to the Minister.

b) Continued support and suggestions for the Supported Child Care Sub-Committee.

c) Continued support for rural child care directors and staff.

d) Continued discussion related to minimum educational levels allowable (as per the Regulations) for child care center staff and family dayhome providers.

ADJUDICATIVE

In this capacity, YCCB is an independent body, referred to as a quasi-judicial body, and hears appeals under the Child Care Act. Appeals are heard when a license to operate a child care facility has been denied, when a license has been suspended, revoked or given certain terms and conditions, or when parents are denied a parent subsidy.

The Board heard nine appeals during its last term (fiscal year 1998 – 1999). All appeals involved subsidy issues.

Appeal decisions are public information and are filed with the Yukon Law Library.

Future Development

The chair of Yukon Child Care Board is currently President of the Canadian Child Care Federation, a non-profit organization with national membership. The opportunity to network and communicate with leaders in the child care field from other provinces and territories is invaluable.

The Yukon Child Care Board supported Yukon participation in the '***You Bet I Care!***' survey. This project collected data on child care environments, caregiver profiles, as well as wages and working conditions. The project, using observation and evaluation tools, included both family day homes and child care centers in the city of Whitehorse. Data will provide information on training levels and salaries in the field. Results will be available later in 1999. This will assist the Yukon Child Care Board in making informed recommendations with regard to training levels noted in the Child Care Center and Family Dayhome Regulations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Yukon Child Care Board brochures have been distributed throughout the Yukon and the YCCB will continue to send them out with various Child Care Services Unit mailings. Rack cards with the Mission Statement and Vision Statement from the Supported Child Care Sub-committee continue to be distributed as well.

MEETINGS

Under the Child Care Act, the Board is required to hold at least two meetings a year. The Board held five general meetings as well as several appeal committee meetings during the past fiscal year.

Appeal training was held in September, 1998. All board members appointed at that time attended the training session.

The dates of the general meetings were as follows:

May 04, 1998
June 19, 1998
September 22, 1998
November 7, 1998
February 19, 1999

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Budgeted Amount	Expenditure
Travel cost for out of Whitehorse members	$4,000.	$5887.
Honoraria for Board Members	$10,000.	$10,187.

With the increased number of rural members, it is recommended that the travel budget for the Yukon Child Care Board be increased. As the number of appeals has been steadily increasing, we also recommend an increase in the total yearly honoraria amount to reflect actual expenditures.

FOCUS FOR 1998/99

The Yukon Child Care Board will focus on the following areas in the coming year:

- Additional Appeal Training for all current board members.
- Continued support for Supported Child Care in the Yukon.
- Continued support for rural child care in the Yukon.
- Input on departmental policies, regulations and program changes with particular emphasis on assisting with the updating of the Policy Manual.
- Completion of review with regard to the Child Care Subsidy Program with recommendations.
- Continuation of open communication with Yukon Child Care Association for a strengthened voice for children and their families in the Yukon.